



EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Educated, trained, qualified workers contribute in great measure the economic strength of the Commonwealth. Employees able to meet the challenges and opportunities of doing business in this century and to fuel growth are critical. As a result, ***the Chamber Supports:***

- Collaboration between the business and education communities.
- Development of a Career and Technical Education Governor's School in the Roanoke Valley.
- Funding for post-secondary education to expand workforce training and continuing education.
- Funding for Pre K-12, STEAM-H and economic awareness curriculum.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development thrives where infrastructure is strong, where public-private partnerships are highly active and where regulatory burdens are few. Businesses locate and expand in areas where these factors exist. in addition to the commonwealth's existing Right-to-Work laws and current mandatory minimum wage, ***the Chamber Supports:***

- The GO Virginia Initiative and results-oriented economic development programs that encourage regional cooperation.
- Transportation funding to meet the prioritized needs of our region.
- The continued safe development of cost effective, traditional and renewable energy sources in an effort to balance economic development, the environment and property rights.



HEALTH CARE

A balanced approach is necessary to ensure that low-income individuals have healthcare. It's time for a real conversation in Virginia to ensure healthcare is accessible, affordable, and sustainable. Sufficient healthcare fundings necessary to ensure the continued viability of healthcare providers who serve the uninsured and underinsured through charity care. Therefore, ***the Chamber Supports:***

- Working with lawmakers and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to effectively address mental health in our region.
- Certificate of Public Need (COPN) reform that models the recommendations from the COPN workgroup.
- Legislation that promotes personal responsibility and expands affordable health insurance coverage options for employers.



The Roanoke Regional Chamber promotes, stimulates and improves business by influencing public policy, making connections and referrals, and helping small business grow.

A study by The Shapiro Group reveals a number of important findings on how consumers and business owners perceive the local chamber of commerce and the businesses that are their members.

Here are some of their findings.



PROMOTE

BUSINESS OWNERS & CONSUMERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO THINK FAVORABLY OF YOUR BUSINESS

Consumers are more 63% more likely to buy goods and services in the future from a company that they believe is a member of the local chamber of commerce.

44%



STIMULATE BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

A business is 59% more likely to buy goods and services from another chamber member. They are also 51% more likely to be highly aware of it, and 58% more likely to think positively of its community involvement.



IMPROVE

JOB & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

82%



82% of locals believe that the chamber of commerce helps create jobs and promotes local economic development.